

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, Ca. 95814

October 12, 1989



ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-70-89

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on the Private Sector Initiative (PSI), a program through which some refugees are admitted and resettled through privately-funded sponsorships. The Department of State has formalized the approval of 4,000 refugee admissions contingent upon the availability of private sector funding sufficient to cover the costs of resettlement of these refugees for up to a two-year period.

Two PSI pilot projects have been approved, the Cuban American National Foundation, (the Foundation), which sponsors and resettles Cuban refugees and the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), which sponsors and resettles Iranian Zoroastrian refugees. Many of the refugees sponsored by the Cuban-American National Foundation are being resettled in the Los Angeles area. FEZANA resettles many refugees in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as in the Los Angeles area.

Specifically, the Foundation and FEZANA must provide each refugee it sponsors with the following:

Overseas:

Processing - the preparation of adequate forms and case records for the admission decision of immigration officers. After a favorable decision is made, arrangements for approved refugees to physically enter the United States;

Maintenance - the provision of food, lodging and other costs of living for those claiming refugee status from application to departure;

Medical - the coordination of medical examinations which meet the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act, plus necessary treatment needed to pass such exams;

Pre-arrival Planning - the allocation and assignment of caseloads, placement decisions and sponsor matchups with relatives and non-relatives;

Transportation - the provision of transportation to final destinations within the United States;

English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) and Orientation Programs - the establishment of ESL and Orientation programs. Although they are not mandatory, they are considered desirable. If they are established, the PSI sponsor will provide the funding.

Domestic:

Sponsorship Development/Sponsor Orientation - the establishment of local sponsors and a sponsor orientation program. Provides consultation with States and local communities where refugees are to be placed;

Reception and Placement - the performance of functions such as making arrival arrangements, providing temporary housing, securing early employment, providing food, clothing and other basic needs, obtaining social security cards and assisting with school registration for children;

Health - the coordination of the transfer of health records to domestic providers and State and local health departments as required, the coordination of necessary health screening and treatment, provision of on-going health care and provision of medical insurance for two years, if the refugee is not able to pay for health insurance during the two-year period;

Financial Support - the provision of private care and maintenance for two years, or until the refugee is self-supporting, whichever comes first;

Social Support Services - the provision of orientation, adjustment counseling, translation and interpretation services; and

Employment and Training - the provision of English language training, employment assessment, vocational training and recertification, job development and follow-up.

Upon the refugee's arrival in the United States, the PSI sponsors, (the Foundation and FEZANA), are required to discuss with the refugee the "Applicant's Statement of Conditions of Entrance and Understanding of Responsibilities," which the refugee must sign. Included in the conditions is a statement that he/she understands that an important requirement of the special admission to the United States under the PSI Program is that he/she be gainfully employed in the United States and not require any form of public cash assistance.

During the first two years after arrival, the PSI-sponsored refugee has agreed not to apply for cash assistance. However, there is no law that bars the refugee from receiving public assistance. In the event, that the local/national sponsors fail to provide support then the State/County may be subject to provide the medical and cash assistance for the refugee. Therefore, where applicable, Counties are advised to refer to Division 69-209, Manual of Policies and Procedures.

According to the terms of the Foundation's prepaid health insurance plan for Cuban refugees, the refugee should not need to qualify for public medical assistance. The Iranian Zoroastrian health insurance fees of \$150/90 days or \$225/180 days are also to be prepaid by the sponsors. In the event, that a refugee does apply for and receive public medical assistance, the State Department of Health Services estimates the cost to the State/County to be \$1094.00 annually per refugee.

The County Welfare Department needs to be aware that these individuals are PSI-sponsored refugees and their I-94 forms will be annotated as follows:

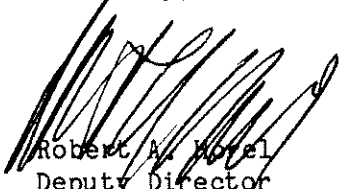
"This refugee admitted under sponsorship of the (name of sponsoring agency). Private financial resources are available. If public assistance is sought, please call (telephone number of sponsoring agency)."

The Cuban PSI local sponsoring agency has agreed to repay the full costs of any cash assistance payments that the refugee may receive. For Iranian Zoroastrian refugees, the FEZANA does not agree to reimburse the State and County for any cash assistance payments the refugee may receive.

Under the FEZANA sponsorship, if the local sponsor/refugee unit has broken down and the refugee has applied for welfare or Medi-Cal, the Area Coordinator will investigate, document, and transmit the details of this occurrence to the FEZANA Manager, to be forwarded to the State Department Coordinator.

If you have any questions, please contact your County Refugee Program Operations Analyst at (916) 323-2131.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Noyel
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division